

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions:

Group I. Claims 2-7, 10, and 11, drawn to a tubular artificial sausage casing, classified in class 138, subclass 118.1; or

Group II. Claim 9, drawn to a stuffed sausage casing, classified in class 426, subclass 105.

It is noted that claim 1 is included in both groups.

The applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-7, 10, and 11 for continued examination, with traverse.

In particular, MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The Commissioner may require restriction if two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in a single application (37 CFR 1.142(a)). In the present case, although the claimed subject matter may be classified in different classes, the inventions are not independent.

It is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that each of claims 1-7 and 9-11 presently pending in this application be examined. If claim 1 is found allowable, then claim 9 would be allowable since it requires all the features of claim 1. In the alternative, the applicant requests that if claim 1 is found allowable, then claim 9 be rejoined with the application and also be deemed allowable.

Applicant believes no additional fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 15551-00001-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: March 5, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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